

Violence Against Women Education Project

ANNUAL REPORT **October 1, 2007–September 30, 2008**

Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts

March 2009

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

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Attention: Violence Against Women Education Project (VAWEP)

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Project Mission

The mission of the Violence Against Women Education Project is to enhance the court's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, and elder abuse issues through the following activities:

- Identify primary educational and informational needs of the courts on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, and elder abuse issues;
- Initiate new judicial branch educational programming pertaining to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, and elder abuse including the delivery of regional training events and enhancing existing programming;
- Develop online courses for judicial officers and court staff relating to court procedure and policy in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and elder abuse;
- Develop and compile useful information for the courts on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, and elder abuse issues that relates specifically to California law;
- Institutionalize inclusion of domestic violence, sexual assault, talking, teen dating violence, and elder abuse issues in all relevant judicial branch education curricula, programs, and publications;
- Create incentives designed to increase attendance and participation in judicial branch education relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking; teen dating violence, and elder abuse;
- Increase communication among courts about best practices in domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, and elder abuse cases;
- Provide jurisdiction-specific technical assistance on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, and elder abuse issues of the greatest importance to local courts; and
- Create educational tools that aid in the administration of justice for self-represented litigants in domestic violence cases.

Education in Family Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Cases: A Critical Need

Many of California's judicial officers, whether they hear criminal cases, civil proceedings, juvenile dependency cases alleging violence, teen dating violence delinquency cases, or family law cases involving contested divorce and custody arrangements, are at some point likely to encounter issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, and elder abuse. These types of cases differ from others in that they appear in a variety of court contexts and departments. Judges in any assignment can benefit from a working knowledge of the unique issues that these cases pose, while judicial officers presiding over specialized courts (such as criminal domestic violence or Domestic Violence Prevention Act courts) need continuing, relevant, and advanced information and resources.

Other court professionals play a critical role in ensuring access to the courts for the parties in these cases. From the counter clerk who may be the first representative of the court system to assist a victim of domestic violence, to the bailiff in the courtroom who performs crucial safety functions, to the document examiner who ensures that legal requirements are met—all work together to help administer these cases. Each court professional needs essential job-related information: an understanding of the law and procedure underlying these cases, knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence, a grounding in the basic principles of public service and safety, and information about how to reduce the stress of functioning in this difficult area.

Thus, ongoing and pertinent education for judicial officers and other judicial branch professionals is critically important to the fair and efficient administration of justice in these important cases. The Violence Against Women Education Project (VAWEP) is an initiative designed to meet this need. VAWEP is a project of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC). VAWEP provides to the courts information, educational materials, training, and technical assistance on the role of the courts in responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence and elder abuse cases in family, civil, criminal, and juvenile courts in California. VAWEP also assists local courts in developing education, policy, and promising practices. VAWEP continually assesses the greatest information and training needs of the courts and designs programs responsive to those needs.

FUNDING INFORMATION

This was the sixth year of the VAWEP initiative. The project is funded by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) with resources from the federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) STOP (Services • Training • Officers • Prosecutors) grant program. (See the appendix, on page 23, for a description of the STOP purpose areas.)

Each state is required to allocate 5 percent of its annual STOP grant funding to support the courts in creating a more effective response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases. To this end, VAWEP received \$452,558 (for the period from October 2007 through September 2008) in funding from OVW and OES that allowed the Administrative Office of the Courts to continue and enhance its efforts to educate and inform judicial officers and court staff about domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking issues.

Review of VAWEP Activities: October 1, 2007–September 30, 2008

In an effort to meet the project's goals and comply with the program purpose areas set forth by the Office on Violence Against Women, VAWEP staff and planning committee members undertook activities in three major areas: the delivery of educational events; the distribution of technical assistance to local trial courts and regions; and the development of teaching materials, resources, and publications. A brief summary of each of these activities is provided in the following pages.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Since the project's inception in 2002, more than 10,747 individuals have participated in VAWEP-sponsored training events and forums. VAWEP participants are primarily judges, commissioners, referees, and court staff. Some programs also involve justice system entities such as attorneys, mental health providers, law enforcement, and advocates. A description of the VAWEP educational events held during this grant year follows.

Continuing Judicial Studies Programs (CJSP) (January and August 2008)

Twelve courses were offered as part of the Continuing Judicial Studies Program series, including courses on domestic violence criminal procedure and immigration issues, elder abuse issues, and handling cases involving sexual assault. The CJSP series of twelve courses also included week-long programs designed for judicial officers new to a criminal or family law assignment.

Domestic Violence Criminal Procedure/Immigration

The January 2008 CJSP program offered a full-day two-part course on criminal domestic violence and immigration issues. Both parts were designed for judges in a criminal department or a specialized domestic violence criminal calendar. Part 1 focused on the nut and bolts of criminal procedure in domestic violence cases. Building on that basic foundation, Part II focused on special problems related to immigration issues in domestic violence cases. Immigration issues increasingly affect judicial decisionmaking, the nature of the information presented in court, and safety issues in criminal domestic violence cases. The course also provided a broad overview of the elements of immigration law that may affect decisions in these cases and an understanding of the challenges facing victims of domestic violence as a result of the immigration concerns and status of the parties. This course was attended by 27 participants; the following are some of their comments:

[The speaker was] very energetic, very enthusiastic, and very knowledgeable.

The domestic violence *Crawford* review was important. All of the immigration education was important.

Both instructors in the afternoon were excellent, as was the morning session instructor.

The August 2008 CJSP program featured two 2 1/2-day courses, entitled “Handling Elder Abuse Issues” and “Handling Sexual Assault Cases.”

Handling Elder Abuse Issues

Elder abuse cases can arise in virtually any department of the superior court. Instructors for the course helped judicial officers become familiar with elder abuse in its various court settings and to understand the relevant underlying law and procedure. The course also included an awareness and understanding of the dynamic of elder abuse cases, the needs of the victims and appropriate accommodations, and myths and misconceptions about elder abuse victims and offenders. The course was attended by 18 participants; the following are some of their comments:

I am not assigned to probate or restraining order [calendar] but [I] am sometimes exposed to related cases in my current general civil assignment. The presentation was just what I wanted to get a good overview.

I learned so much about responding to the needs of the elderly in the criminal justice system. I learned about the important differences between domestic violence and elder abuse. I learned about criminal, civil, family and probate issues.

I will investigate whether there are shelters for the elderly in my community; I hope to develop some methods for our various courts to share information regarding related cases.

I thought the course was excellent—the best I have ever attended. I really appreciated learning about criminal, civil, family and probate. The discussions were vigorous, healthy, and informative.

Handling Sexual Assault Cases

The August 2008 CJSP program also featured the popular 2 1/2-day course “Handling Sexual Assault Cases.” Sexual assault cases require the judge to be familiar with a unique body of substantive and procedural law that is not necessarily applicable in other criminal cases. Judicial officers need to be aware of and understand the dynamics of sexual assault cases, the needs of the victim and specially mandated accommodations, and myths and misconceptions about sexual assault victims and offenders. The course was attended by 14 participants; the following are some of their comments:

Judge Couzens—[I] can never have enough classes from him. He’s knowledgeable and presents information clearly and with relevance for my work.

Woody Clarke handled a very potentially boring subject in a very clear and interesting fashion.

[The greatest strengths of the instructor include] depth of knowledge, facility for communicating the subject matter—Judge Couzens is always a superb instructor. The contributions of Dr. Bumby and Judge Clarke were also excellent.

Overview Courses (November 2007 and January, May and September 2008)

The Overview courses are week-long events for judges and commissioners new to a family law or criminal law assignment.

Family Law Overview

Domestic Violence and Family Law and Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

Within the weekend-long event, two courses specifically focused on domestic violence issues—a general overview of domestic violence in family law settings and a course on the effects of domestic violence on children. Thirty judicial officers attended both workshops at the November program, 26 attended the January program, and 32 attended the May program. These weeklong courses contained significant components relating to domestic violence, including segments on the effects of domestic violence on children, differential assessment of domestic violence, outcomes for children exposed to domestic violence, and the co-occurrence and interrelationship of substance abuse with domestic violence. Following is a sample of the comments received:

The course has changed my preparation for the Family Law Assignment. I now look forward to the experience and the challenge. I hope to someday reach the level of the expertise and outlook of the instructors.

The interaction between faculty and participants [was most beneficial]. Sharing of similar and different approaches by illustrating that there is no “one” right way [was helpful]. I also thought the self quiz / bias awareness portion was excellent and it reminded me to take a hard look as to whether gender, ethnicity or other issues might be impacting my decisions.

The instructors were excellent; good to have the variety in personalities.

Criminal Law Overview

Courses in criminal domestic violence were held during the November 2007 and May 2008 overview sessions. Both courses focused on basic procedures in criminal domestic violence cases. Twenty-seven participants attended the November 2007 program and 28 participants attended the May 2008 program; the following are sample comments:

[As a result of this course, I will] comply with the requirements and rules of the law. [I will also] follow the scripts in some situations that I’m not as familiar with.

[I] will adopt some of the suggestions re: jury selection and jury instructions.

Domestic Violence Judicial Institute (January 2008)

This judicial education program is based on a national interdisciplinary curriculum developed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Family Violence Prevention Fund. The three-day program included workshops on fact-finding, fairness, and cultural issues in domestic violence cases, decision-making skills and enforcement, victim behavior, and perpetrator behavior. The program also included sessions designed to engage judicial officers in practical courtroom exercises addressing the complexity of domestic violence cases as well as specific issues facing California judicial officers. Forty-eight participants attended the workshop.

The project also offered a preinstitute workshop to address the “nuts and bolts” of California law in domestic violence cases. The preinstitute workshop provided participants with the basics of domestic violence cases, focusing on common errors, unique features, and “hot spots.” Issues arising in criminal domestic violence cases include emergency protective orders, pretrial release and bail, criminal protective orders issued both pretrial and as a mandatory condition of probation, sentencing, review hearings, and probation violations. Issues related to family law include statutory requirements for restraining orders, firearms issues, and cross-over issues such as avoiding conflicting orders. Forty-six participants attended the preinstitute course.

The institute and preinstitute course received excellent evaluations. The evaluations of both programs included the following comments from participants:

In my three years on the bench, this was by far the best seminar I’ve been to.

[The most beneficial part of the course was] demonstrating cross-over and differences between domestic violence in criminal and family cases.

[As a result of this course, there are] many things [I will do differently, such as] make more detailed findings on the record and require the district attorney to provide factual basis when they assert it’s a “non-domestic violence” case.

[As a result of this course, I will] order the 52-week [batterer intervention] treatment and not the 12 [week anger management treatment].

I found the presentation regarding “culture” and what that means to be invaluable.

[My favorite part of the institute was] the “non-legal” learning, Dr. Jaffe and Dr. Warrier. It’s always so helpful to hear from people from different disciplines.

[My favorite part of the institute was] the combination of lectures and group participation exercises. Using both methods of teaching broke up the monotony that can often come from just lectures.

Judicial Institutes (March, April, May, and September 2008)

Judicial institutes target specific judicial audiences, either judges from rural areas or judges assigned to hear specific case types, such as family, juvenile, or criminal law. The project sponsored programs at the Juvenile Law Institute in March, at the Family Law Institute in April, at the Cow County Judges Institute in May, at the Assigned Judges Program Institute, and at the Criminal Law Institute in September. The project also supported a course at the Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference held in conjunction with the Family Law Institute.

Juvenile Law Institute (March 2008)

Three courses were offered at the Juvenile Law Institute held in Long Beach: “Effects of Domestic Violence on Child Development,” “Differential Assessment: Domestic Violence and Co-Occurring Issues,” and “Evaluation and Risk Assessment When Domestic Violence is an Issue—What About the Child?”. Faculty for these courses collectively presented issues relating to the role of the juvenile court and judicial decisionmaking in dependency cases in which domestic violence is an issue.

The first course, “Effects of Domestic Violence on Child Development,” examined the effects of domestic violence on children at various stages of development and provided an analysis of the significance of these effects from the perspective of the judicial officer and other justice system professionals. Sixty-one judicial officers attended this program; the following is a sampling of the comments:

[As a result of this course, I will] definitely be more aware of observing domestic violence in children and parents.

Understand what we do right, how things are improving and that sometimes things go right. There is often joy in the courtroom as children are returned to parents.

[The] subject matter was very interesting and potentially difficult; presenter was excellent in that he made it very easy to understand.

Faculty for the second course, “Differential Assessments and Effective Services: Domestic Violence and Co-Occurring Issues,” addressed assessment of the extent and nature of domestic violence and other co-occurring issues, such as substance abuse. The course also analyzed the need for effective services for these families. Fifty-eight judicial officers attended this program; the following are several of their comments:

[As a result of this course] I will look at “reasonable services,” temporary restraining orders, family maintenance and voluntary family maintenance and victim witness funds.

[The most beneficial part of the course was] obtaining very important and practical information to use in my juvenile dependency court.

[The most beneficial part of the course was the] Nuts and Bolts instruction on how to [issue] restraining orders.

The third workshop, “Evaluation and Risk Assessment When Domestic Violence is an Issue—What About the Child?” focused on evaluating court-ordered treatment and services in families affected by domestic violence and, in cases where the child has been removed, determining when or whether it is safe for the child to return home. Fifty-one participants attended the workshop. Sample comments follow:

[The course included] very important and practical information that I will use in my juvenile dependency court.

[As a result of this course] I will make good faith efforts and meet with service providers and learn more about those programs

Hypos were helpful in that they generated significant discussions.

Family Law Institute (April 2008)

Two courses were offered at the Family Law Institute: “Crafting Custody Orders in Domestic Violence: What Kids Need” and “Domestic Violence Restraining Order Best Practices—Revisited.”

Faculty for the workshop on “Crafting Custody Orders in Domestic Violence: What Kids Need” focused on difficult custody decisions when domestic violence is a factor. The workshop included review of the statutory requirements judicial officers must consider, how to enhance safety and provide for appropriate contact, ways to assess the children’s response to domestic violence in particular cases, and options to consider when resources are limited. The workshop was attended by 31 participants, several of whom offered the following comments:

This was one of the best classes on this subject I have ever taken. The judge, the psychologist, and minor's counsel were very knowledgeable and helpful.

[As a result of this course] I will do more systematic screenings using the P-5 Tool. Obviously, family court judges consider the criteria in the tool, but this allows it to be done in a consistent way and equates types of parenting plans with the criteria.

The instructors were very knowledgeable about the subject matter. Good mix of educational backgrounds.

Participants in the workshop on “Domestic Violence Restraining Order Best Practices—Revisited” provided feedback on the guidelines and practices developed by the Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force and how these practices can be implemented by busy judicial officers. The workshop also focused on practice applications of the recommended practices and ways to improve information for decisionmaking. Thirty-nine participants attended this course; the following are three of their comments:

Absolutely the best format so far! The panel interaction was lively and engaging. Held my interest throughout [the workshop].

I learned many things. I will take back practices I was not implementing. Very helpful.

[I will] talk to family court services regarding some (slight) modification of procedures. Talk to other judges at my court about issues raised [during this course].

Cow County Judges Institute (May 2008)

The Cow County Judges Institute is a unique opportunity to present courses to rural judges in an environment that allows for discussion of substantive and procedural law and their unique features in a rural setting. Two three-hour workshops were offered at the Cow County Judges Institute: “Handling Elder Abuse Issues” and “Judicial Decisionmaking in Sexual Assault Cases.”

The purpose of the course, “Handling Elder Abuse Issues” was to enhance the skills and abilities of judicial officers to respond to issues involving physical, emotional, and financial abuse of elders that arise on a regular basis in different court settings, including criminal, family, and probate/conservatorship assignments. Participants learned how to evaluate whether elder abuse is a risk, engage in effective fact finding, and craft effective restraining orders that preserve the dignity of elders,

enhance safety, and hold perpetrators accountable. The workshop was attended by 12 judges, some of whom offered the following comments:

The format (and presenters) was excellent. No one stepped on the others.
No one tried to dominate/impress [the group].

Good format. Frequent change of speaker kept pace lively.

Sexual assault cases require the judge to be familiar with a unique body of substantive and procedural law that does not necessarily apply in other criminal cases. Faculty for the workshop “Judicial Decisionmaking in Sexual Assault Cases” focused on many of the unique statutory procedures related to the handling of sexual assault cases during pretrial, trial, and posttrial sentencing. The workshop also included a review of relevant procedures under the sexually violent predator law. Eighteen participants registered to attend this workshop and offered the following comments:

[I will] lock myself in a closet with *The Adjudication of Sex Crimes* for two hours before sentencing one of these cases.

[I will] use the course materials extensively.

[This course was beneficial because it] de-mystified many aspects of the body of law involved with the topic.

Retired/Assigned Judges Institute (September 2008)

The Retired/Assigned Judges Institute brings together retired judges sitting on assignment for a biannual conference. The conference is generally attended by 300 or more retired judges and justices from the California judiciary. Two courses were offered in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault: “Domestic Violence and Restraining Orders,” attended by 69 participants, and “Handling Sex Offenses” attended by 45 participants.

Criminal Law Institute (September 2008)

Two courses were offered at the Criminal Law Institute, an annual program for judicial officers with criminal law assignments. The first course, “The Adjudication of Stalking Cases,” focused on a nuts-and-bolts approach to judicial decisionmaking in stalking cases, the statutory basis for stalking cases, stalking behavior and dynamics, threats and threat assessment, special evidentiary issues, victim protections, and crafting effective court orders. The course was attended by 10 participants, several of whom offered the following comments:

Good course and lecture.

The resource materials were the most beneficial part of the course.

Review of the little issues that exist specific to stalking cases was beneficial.

The second course, “Sexually Violent Predators,” dealt with the handling of sexually violent predator cases. The course provided judicial officers with an overview of the unique features relating to trial procedure, evidentiary rules, and sentencing. Fourteen participants attended; the following are some of their comments:

[I will] be able to handle sexually violent predator cases with more confidence.

[Judge Couzens] is a great lecturer—very knowledgeable about the subject—is very easy to listen to.

Introduction to a new area of law for me [was a helpful part of this course].

B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California (June 2008)

The B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California is a nationally recognized program providing comprehensive education to all new superior court judges, commissioners, and referees. Course offerings included two sessions on domestic violence awareness, a course on criminal sexual assault cases, and a course on domestic violence issues in family law. The course on domestic violence awareness is mandatory for all participants.

In addition to providing information on the nuts and bolts of domestic violence laws, the instructors for the Domestic Violence Awareness course presented on the dynamics of domestic violence and on ways to help judicial officers learn how to avoid the potential stress of presiding over these difficult and important cases. Through case scenarios, participants were able to apply laws uniquely applicable during a domestic violence trial, master the mechanics of issuing, modifying, and terminating criminal and civil restraining orders in domestic violence cases, learn how to handle practical problems that arise in domestic violence cases, and sentence appropriately in criminal cases. All program participants attended this mandatory course for a total of 105 participants. A selection of comments follows:

[I] enjoyed the hypothetical scenarios and resource material contained in the outline.

I thought the *Criminal Minds* vignette was an excellent demonstration of abuse.

Commissioner Richards is great at giving practical tips and making points with real situations.

Sixteen judicial officers attended the “Criminal Sexual Assault Cases” course. This course examined issues unique to trials involving sex crimes. Topics included juror selection, experts, selected evidentiary statutes, and statutes and procedures for victim protection. A sampling of comments received from evaluations for this course follows:

[The] knowledge and experience of the instructors [was the most beneficial part of the course].

[As a result of this course, I have] a better view of statutes and evidence issues/hearings relating to sex crimes.

Twenty-one judicial officers attended the “Domestic Violence Issues in Family Law Cases” course. Faculty for this course alerted judicial officers to the domestic violence issues that arise in family law cases. The course also focused on the statutory presumption based on a history of domestic violence under Family Code section 3044 and how to craft custody and visitation orders in the best interests of the child when domestic violence is an issue in the case.

I am relieved that professionals are recognizing that in domestic violence situations, a no contact order is okay.

This course was way too short. Domestic Violence cuts across so many areas of law that this course needs to be longer.

The instructor was very articulate and very well spoken.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND LOCAL TRAINING

Technical assistance and local training are provided through the Domestic Violence Safety Partnership (DVSP) project (October 2007–September 2008). The DVSP project was developed to enhance safety and to improve practices and protocols in the handling of domestic violence cases by offering advice, hands-on technical assistance, a speakers bureau/peer mentoring, and local education and training. Trial courts participate in the program by filling out the DVSP self-assessment tool. This tool consists of legal mandates and other safety considerations relating to domestic violence cases and in particular the handling of restraining orders. The assessment helps courts identify areas in which technical assistance or training may be most beneficial. The AOC then provides educational opportunities or technical assistance at the court's request. Participation in the self-assessment is voluntary and is not a prerequisite for obtaining assistance under this program, although courts are strongly encouraged to complete the process, and those that do will be given priority. Those courts that have completed the assessment have found it useful in identifying areas where training and technical assistance is needed.

Eight instances of assistance were provided to the trial courts and AOC departments or regional offices. A list of the programs provided under DVSP follows:

Superior Court of Alameda County

The project provided funding for a training focused on Domestic Violence and the Juvenile Court. Topics included the dynamics of domestic violence and its impact on children in the home and how to obtain and issue restraining orders in juvenile court. The course also contained an open discussion on implementation issues, such as coordinating the use of restraining orders with the dependency case plans or the terms of probation. Fifty-seven participants attended the program.

Family Dispute Resolution Statewide Educational (FDR) Institute

The FDR Institute is an annual statewide event for family court mediators. One day of the program is specifically designed to allow mediators and judicial officers who attend the Family Law Institute to attend joint workshops. The program sponsored two workshops: "Fairness and Cultural Issues in Domestic Violence Cases" and "The Use of Technology in Intimate Partner Stalking." These collaborative workshops enabled family law judicial officers and mediators to effectively handle issues of domestic violence and better understand stalking behavior. One hundred fifty-one participants attended the both workshops sponsored by the project.

Superior Court of Inyo County

The project funded an interdisciplinary teen dating violence prevention symposium: “Overcoming Relationship Abuse—Empowering Youth.” The one-day collaborative event featured a counselor and students from Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA). Mr. Ralph “Bud” Fry from the Parent Project presented on skills necessary to working with high risk families. The Superior Court of Inyo County is located on the eastern rim of the Sierra Mountains. The court invited judicial officers from Alpine and Mono Counties and the Ridgecrest District of the Superior Court of Kern County. More than 131 participants gathered to participate in the daylong event.

Superior Court of San Francisco County

The project provided funding for faculty for a training program exploring the effects of domestic violence on children. The program “Through the Eyes of Children—The Consequences of Domestic Violence and Other Adverse Experiences for Children” was attended by judges, attorneys, and community-based organizations in the Bay Area. Dr. Patricia Van Horn, University of California, San Francisco, presented on the trauma of exposure to violence and research on working with mothers and their young children. Dr. Vincent J. Felitti (Ret.), Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program, presented results from a study addressing the relationship of adverse childhood experiences such as exposure to domestic violence to adult health, well-being, social function, and healthcare. More than 161 participants gathered to participate in the daylong event.

Superior Court of San Bernardino County

The project funded a four-hour domestic violence training for family court services mediators, evaluators, and court clerks in San Bernardino. Topics covered included best practices in domestic violence cases, recent research in domestic violence, and dealing with particularly challenging cases as a mediator or evaluator. Approximately 60 participants attended the training.

Superior Court of Santa Clara County

The project provided funding for Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, nationally recognized faculty, and two judges from the Alameda County Superior Court. Faculty presented information on the latest findings from a study on the effectiveness of batterer intervention programs, ethical considerations, and the judicial officer’s role in the court and community. The program also focused on ideas to improve decisionmaking in domestic violence proceedings to enhance victim safety and batterer accountability. Judicial officers from the Superior Courts of San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties were invited to the training. Thirty-two participants attended the program.

Superior Court of Siskiyou County

The project provided funding for Judge Becky Lynn Dugan from the Superior Court of Riverside County to conduct a half-day training on the nuts and bolts of California law and restraining orders. The training was attended by judges and court personnel, local law enforcement, attorneys, and domestic violence advocates. A total of 19 participants attended the program.

Superior Court of Tulare County

The grant provided funding for two judges from the Superior Court of Ventura County to serve as faculty for a full-day judicial officer educational program. The full-day event included discussions on restraining orders, mandatory sentencing practices under Penal Code section 1203.097, gun restrictions, and an overview of the Ventura Superior Court's domestic violence court. A representative from the Department of Justice also presented on restraining orders and the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS).

PUBLICATIONS**Annual Report and Fact Sheet**

VAWEP has developed a project annual report and a basic project fact sheet that highlight key accomplishments and activities and that supply details about the project, its faculty, and its staff. These documents are available on the California Courts Web site: www.courtinfo.ca.gov. The project also routinely mails the documents to all judicial officers in California.

GOALS FOR FUTURE FUNDING CYCLES

In anticipation of funding for future grant cycles, VAWEF has set the following goals for the 2008–2009 project year (subject to approval and available funding):

- Convene two meetings of the project’s advisory committee;
- Conduct at least eight courses at the Continuing Judicial Studies Program or at other related programs on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse, and teen dating violence;
- Conduct two workshops on domestic violence and an additional workshop on sexual assault at the B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California;
- Develop and disseminate a project fact sheet and an annual report;
- Convene a judicial roundtable discussion to serve as a forum to assess educational needs for judges handling domestic violence cases involving women of Indian Ancestry;
- Convene at least three workshops at various judicial institutes scheduled throughout the year on issues relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or elder abuse;
- Convene two regional court meetings focused on implementation of the guidelines and practices recommended by the Judicial Council’s Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force;
- Convene regional or local meetings with Native American communities to examine the challenges and needs of tribal victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and teen dating violence;
- Conduct a series of local Native American and community network meetings in order to receive information about domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and teen dating violence in local Native American communities;
- Analyze the data collected, identify primary statewide and local needs, and convene a statewide symposium based on these findings for Native American communities, tribal courts, state courts, and collaborative partner organizations with the goal of enhancing the administration of justice for Native Americans in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and teen dating violence;
- Update, publish, distribute, and post online practical guides for judges that address topics of protective orders, immigration and domestic violence, full faith and credit for restraining orders and firearms restrictions, stalking, and sexual assault;

- Provide for a speakers bureau or targeted local technical assistance to allow courts to receive information about topics most pertinent to them related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse, or teen dating violence; and
- Continue production of an online newsletter on domestic violence issues for judicial officers and court staff.

VAWEP staff will continue to assess the greatest training, educational, and technical assistance needs of the California judicial branch so that judicial officers and court staff can optimally address the complex issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse, and teen dating violence that currently face the courts.

VAWEP FACULTY

Judicial officers, researchers, and others have served as faculty for various VAWEP events. The project is extremely grateful to these individuals for sharing their expertise with others in an effort to educate judicial officers, court staff, and professionals in other disciplines about issues of domestic and sexual violence. The following is a comprehensive list of all those who assisted the project from October 2007 through September 2008.

Continuing Judicial Studies Programs (CJSP)—Domestic Violence Criminal Trial Procedures, Immigration Issues in Criminal Domestic Violence Cases, Handling Sexual Assault Cases, and Handling Elder Abuse Issues (January and August 2008)

Hon. Mitchell L. Beckloff
Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Hon. Susan M. Breall
Judge, Superior Court of San Francisco County

Dr. Kurt Bumby
Center for Effective Public Policy, Maryland

Hon. George W. Clarke
Judge Superior Court of San Diego County

Hon. Julie Conger (Ret.)
Judge, Superior Court of Alameda County

Hon. J. Richard Couzens (Ret.)
Judge, Superior Court of Placer County

Ms. Candace Heisler
Heisler & Associates, San Bruno

Hon. Joni T. Hiramoto
Judge, Superior Court of Contra Costa County

Hon. Kim R. Hubbard
Superior Court of California, County of Orange

Ms. Sally Kinoshita
Immigrant Legal Resource Center,
San Francisco

Hon. Sandra Lynn Margulies
Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, First
Appellate District

Dr. Laura Mosqueda
University of California, Irvine

Hon. Thomas H. Schulte
Commissioner, Superior Court of Orange County

Hon. Jane Shade
Commissioner, Superior Court of Orange County

Hon. Mark B. Simons
Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, First
Appellate District Division Five

Overview Courses—Family Law Overview (Domestic Violence and Family Law, Effects of Domestic Violence on Children); Criminal Law Overview (Domestic Violence Criminal Trials) (November 2007, January, May, and September 2008)

Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack
Judge, Superior Court of Sacramento County

Dr. Mary Duryee
Clinical Psychologist, Oakland

Hon. Jeffrey S. Bostwick
Judge, Superior Court of San Diego County

Hon. Joni T. Hiramoto
Judge, Superior Court of Contra Costa County

Hon. Becky Lynn Dugan
Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Lund
Lund & Strachan, Los Angeles

California Law in Domestic Violence Cases (Nuts & Bolts)—Domestic Violence Judicial Institute PreInstitute Workshop (January 2008)

Hon. Becky Lynn Dugan
Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County

Domestic Violence Judicial Institute (January 2008)

Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack
Judge, Superior Court of Sacramento County

Dr. Peter G. Jaffe
Professor, University of Western Ontario

Hon. Lewis A. Davis
Judge, Superior Court of Contra Costa County

Hon. Irwin H. Joseph
Commissioner, Superior Court of Santa Cruz County

Ms. Loretta M. Frederick
Senior Legal and Policy Director, Battered Women's Justice Project, Minnesota

Hon. Michele D. Levine
Judge, Superior Court Riverside County

Hon. Becky Lynn Dugan
Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County

Hon. Steven R. Van Sicklen
Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Hon. Sherrill A. Ellsworth
Judge, Superior Court Riverside County

Dr. Sujata Warriar
Director, Health Care Bureau, New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

JUDICIAL INSTITUTES (March, April, May, June, and September 2008)

Juvenile Law Institute—Differential Assessment Domestic Violence and Co-Occurring Issues, Evaluation and Risk Assessment When Domestic Violence is an Issue, and Effects of Domestic Violence on Child Development (March 2008)

Dr. David Arredondo
Child Psychiatrist, Menlo Park

Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.)
Judge, Superior Court of Santa Clara County

Hon. Gary M. Bubis
Judge, Superior Court of San Diego County

Ms. Marla Johanning
Santa Clara County Department of Family &
Children Services

Hon. Frank Dougherty
Judge, Superior Court of Merced County

Hon. Shawna M. Schwarz
Judge, Superior Court of Santa Clara County

Family Law Institute—Crafting Custody Orders in Domestic Violence: What Kids Need, and Domestic Violence Restraining Order Best Practices—Revisited (April 2008)

Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack
Judge, Superior Court of Sacramento County

Hon. Sherrill A. Ellsworth
Judge, Superior Court Riverside County

Hon. Jeffrey S. Bostwick
Judge, Superior Court of San Diego County

Dr. Jan Johnston
Professor, San Jose State University

Hon. Becky Lynn Dugan
Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County

Hon. James M. Mize
Judge, Superior Court of Sacramento County

Cow County Judges Institute—Judicial Decisionmaking in Sexual Assault Cases, and Handling Elder Abuse Issues (May 2008)

Hon. Donald Cole Byrd
Judge, Superior Court of Glenn County

Hon. Sandra L. Margulies
Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, First
Appellate District

Hon. J. Richard Couzens (Ret.)
Judge, Superior Court of Placer County

Hon. Thomas H. Schulte
Commissioner, Superior Court of Orange County

Ms. Candace Heisler
Heisler and Associates, San Bruno

Criminal Law Institute—The Adjudication of Stalking Cases, and Sexually Violent Predators: Trial, Procedure, Evidence and Sentencing (September 2008)

Hon. J. Richard Couzens (Ret.)
Judge, Superior Court of Placer County

Hon. Jane Shade
Commissioner, Superior Court of Orange County

Retired/Assigned Judges Institute—Domestic Violence and Restraining Orders and Handling Sex Offenses (September 2008)

Hon. Becky Lynn Dugan
Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County

Hon. Tricia Ann Bigelow
Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Second
Appellate District

Hon. J. Richard Couzens (Ret.)
Judge, Superior Court of Placer County

B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California—Domestic Violence Awareness, Domestic Violence Issues in Family Law Cases, and Criminal Sexual Assault (June 2008)

Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack
Judge, Superior Court of Sacramento County

Hon. Rebecca S. Riley
Judge, Superior Court of Ventura County

Hon. J. Richard Couzens (Ret.)
Judge, Superior Court of Placer County

Hon. Lowell E. Richards
Commissioner, Superior Court of Contra Costa
County

Hon. Joni T. Hiramoto
Judge, Superior Court of Contra Costa County

Domestic Violence Safety Partnership (DVSP) Project (October 2007–September 2008)

Mr. Lundy Bancroft
Consultant, Massachusetts

Hon. Becky Lynn Dugan
Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County

Hon. Ellen Gay Conroy
Judge, Superior Court of Ventura County

Dr. Jeffrey Lee Edleson
Professor, University of Minnesota

Ms. Rebecca Dreke
Senior Program Associate
Stalking Resource Center, National Center for
Victims of Crime, Washington, DC

Hon. Sherrill A. Ellsworth
Judge, Superior Court of Riverside County

Dr. Vincent Felitti
Consultant, La Jolla

Domestic Violence Safety Partnership (DVSP) Project (October 2007–September 2008)
Continued

Mr. Ralph “Bud” Fry
 Parent Project, Nevada

Dr. Mindy B. Mechanic
 Associate Professor
 California State University, Fullerton

Hon. Shawna M. Schwarz
 Judge, Superior Court of Santa Clara County

Dr. Sujata Warriar
 Director, Health Care Bureau, New York State
 Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Ms. Julia Weber
 Supervising Attorney, Center for Families,
 Children & the Courts, Administrative Office of
 the Courts

Hon. Colleen Toy White
 Judge, Superior Court of Ventura County

Publications—Authors

SARATSO: Mandatory Risk Assessment of Sex Offenders

Hon. Tricia Ann Bigelow
 Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

Hon. J. Richard Couzens (Ret.)
 Judge, Superior Court of Placer County

APPENDIX

STOP GRANT PURPOSE AREAS

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women STOP (Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors) formula grants are intended for use by states; state, local, and tribal courts; Indian tribal governments; units of local government; and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs. Grants supported through this program must fall into one or more statutory program purpose areas. The purpose areas most closely related to this project are:

- Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence programs; developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations; providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted; and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking.
- Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim service agencies, and other state agencies and departments to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Providing assistance to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in immigration matters.

